AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A device for applying a coating to an optical fiber, the device including:

a die support;

a grid for applying the coating to the optical fiber, the grid being an integral ~~one-piece~~ one-piece construction with the die-support; and

an entry die and an exit die disposed in the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid and defining a passage for the optical fiber; and

wherein a radial face of the entry die is pressed against a first radial wall of the die-support and wherein the radial face of the entry die and the first radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the entry die extending between the entry die and the exit die.

2. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the entry die is disposed in a housing of the die-support whose diameter is greater than the inside diameter of the grid.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein a hollow part screwed into the die-support presses the entry die against the first radial wall.

5. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the exit die is disposed in a housing of the die-support whose diameter is greater than the inside diameter of the grid.

6. (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein a radial face of the exit die bears against a second radial wall of the die-support, and wherein the radial face of the exit die and the second radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the exit die extending between the entry die and the exit die.

7. (currently amended): The device of ~~clafm 6.~~ claim 6, wherein a hollow part screwed into the die-support presses the exit die against the second radial wall.

8. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid.

9. (original): The device of claim 8, wherein $D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

10. (original): The device of claim 8, wherein $D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

11. (currently amended): An installation for applying a coating to an optical fiber, comprising:

a device that applies a coating to an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a die support;

a grid that applies the coating to the optical fiber, the grid being an integral one-piece construction with the die-support; and

an entry die and an exit die disposed in the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid and defining a passage for the optical fiber; and

a support for the device, the support comprising means for feeding the coating liquid around the grid;[[:]] and

wherein a chamber is defined around the grid and is connected to the coating liquid feed means, in which the chamber has a volume greater than the inside volume of the grid.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): The installation of claim 11, wherein the coating liquid feed means include a plurality of passages discharging radially into the chamber.

14. (currently amended): A die-support including a cylindrical grid of circular inside section and a receiver on each side of the grid in which is received a respective entry die and exit die, wherein the cylindrical grid and the receivers form an integral one-piece construction; and wherein the grid has ~~through holes~~ through-holes that open into a common annular space surrounding the grid; and

wherein the outside diameter of the ~~die support~~ die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid; and

wherein $D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented): A die-support including a cylindrical grid of circular inside section and a receiver on each side of the grid in which is received a respective entry die and exit

die, wherein the cylindrical grid and the receivers form an integral one-piece construction; and wherein the grid has through-holes that open into a common annular space surrounding the grid; and

wherein the outside diameter of the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid; and

wherein $D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

18. (previously presented): An optical fiber coating apparatus, comprising:

a die support having a longitudinal axis defining a path for passing an optical fiber through the die support so as to coat the optical fiber with a coating, the die support comprising:

a grid for applying the coating to the optical fiber;

an upstream part defining an upstream receiving portion, the upstream part having an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of the grid;

a downstream part defining a downstream receiving portion, the downstream part having an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the grid; and

an entry die having a through-hole and disposed in the upstream receiving portion; and

an exit die having a through-hole and disposed in the downstream receiving portion; and

wherein the grid, the upstream part, and the downstream part are made from the same piece of material as an integral one-piece construction; and

wherein a radial face of the entry die is pressed against a first radial wall of the upstream part of the die-support, and wherein the radial face of the entry die and the first radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the entry die extending between the entry die and the exit die.

19. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the downstream part includes a second radial wall, and wherein the first radial wall opposes the second radial wall to define an annular space around the grid.

20. (currently amended): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the grid has a wall defining an interior of the grid and ~~through-holes~~ through-holes in the wall that open into the annular space and communicate the annular space with the interior of the grid.

21. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein one end of the grid is continuous with the upstream part to define the first radial wall, and the other end of the grid is continuous with the downstream part to define the second radial wall; and

wherein a side of the first radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the entry die, and a side of the second radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the exit die.

22. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

23. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.